

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 FMC-01

DOT-00 OC-05 CCO-00 /095 W  
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R 280944Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9770

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARUS

CUSFJ

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: SPRING LABOR OFFENSIVE, REPORT V--SETTLEMENTS AND STRIKE  
PLANS

REF: TOKYO 4702

TOKYO 3947

SUMMARY. ONETHIRD OF JAPAN'S MAJOR PRIVATE COMPANIES HAVE ENDED  
SPRING

WAGE NEGOTIATIONS GRANTING INCREASES AVERAGING 12.4  
PERCENT. SEAMEN ALSO SETTLED FOR AROUND 15 PERCENT AND MAJOR  
AUTO MAKERS FOR JUST UNDER 15 WHICH SO FAR SEEMS TO BE THE TOP.  
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS STILL NEGOTIATING WITH UNION  
SEEKING TO IMPROVE ON OFFERS ON NINE PERCENT. UNIONS IN  
SYNTHETIC CHEMICAL TEXTILES HAVE AGREED TO SIX MONTHS WAGE "

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FREEZE" AND ONE TEXTILE FIRM TO NO INCREASE FOR A YEAR. LABOR IN  
PUBLIC SECTOR SHOWS SIGNS OF TRIMMING ITS DEMANDS, CONFORMING  
TO PATTERN EMERGING IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, BUT  
CRIPPLING IF SHORT TRANSPORT STRIKES EXPECTED IN MAY 7-14 PERIOD

BEFORE SETTLEMENTS ARE REACHED. END SUMMARY.

1 STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING UNIONS FINALLY ACCEPTED INCREASES OF 14.865 AND 15.01 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY --62.50 DOLLARS PER MONTH (AT YEN 292/DLLAR). SO FAR SETTLEMENTS ARE ALL WITHIN GOJ AND EMPLOYER ASSOCIATION (NIKKEIREN) GUIDELINES. NIKKEIREN SURVEY SHOWS 92 OF 318 TOP COMPANIES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENTS AVERAGING 50131 DLLARS PER MONTH OR 12.4 PERCENT. (THE SAME FIRMS IN 1974 GRANTED INCREASES OF 30.3 PERCENT). INCLUDED IN AVERAGE WERE NOT ONLY THE HIGH STEEL AND SHIPBUILDING SETTLEMENTS, BUT DOWN TO TEXTILE FIRMS, ONE OF WHICH FROZE WAGES FOR A YEAR EXCEPT FOR 2.5 PERCENT SENIORITY RAISES, AND UNIONS IN SYNTHETIC TEXTILES WHICH AGREED TO ACCEPT 2.9 PERCENT AND 11.9 PERCENT IN OCTOBER.

2. ELECTRIC APPLIANCE AND MACHINERY WORKERS' UNION (DENKIROBEN) REJECTED ORIGINAL OFFERS OF 5-6.5 PERCENT AND IS CONDUCTING STRIKES; BUT IT APPEARS CLOSE TO SETTLEMENT AT JUST ABOVE NINE PERCENT. ELECTRIC POWER WORKERS (DENORON) SETTLED FOR MONTHLY INCREASES OF 67 DOLLARS--14 PERCENT. SUMITOMO ELECTRIC CABLE SETTLED FOR 11.5 PERCENT SETTING THE PATTERN FOR THAT INDUSTRY.

3. SEAMAN'S UNION (KAIIN) AFTER INITIALLY DEMANDING 47.6 PERCENT FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS' CREWS AND HAVING VOTED TO STRIKE, SUDDENLY SETTLED APRIL 24. ACCORDING TO MANAGEMENT UNION WON A 14.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES AND OTHER BENEFITS. KAIIN, ANXIOUS TO SHOW ITSELF IN BEST LIGHT, CLAIMS BASE WAGE INCREASE OF 17.3 PERCENT. IN ANY EVENT THE BOOST AVERAGED 79 DOLLARS A MONTH.

4. IN AUTO INDUSTRY DAIHATSU FIRST FOR 14.3 PERCENT; THEN NISSAN AND TOYOTA UPPED ORIGINAL OFFERS TO 14.94 AND SETTLED. REST OF AUTOMOTIVE WORKERS EXPECTED TO MAKE SETTLEMENTS IN SAME RANGE.

5. UNION OF PRIVATE RR WORKERS (SHITETSUSOREN) ORIGINALLY DEMANDED 38.5 PERCENT, AND HAD HIGH HOPES SINCE MAJOR LINES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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WERE DOING WELL. HOWEVER, GOJ IS LEANING HEAVILY ON MANAGEMENT TO SETTLE WITHIN THE 15 PERCENT GUIDELINES OR FACE EVEN FURTHER DELAYS IN LONG-DESIRED RATE INCREASES. SINCE SHITETSUSOREN'S SETTLEMENT WILL BE MAJOR DETERMINING FACTOR IN INCREASES GRANTED TO JNR UNIONS AND TO OTHER PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND NATIONAL ENTERPRISES, THE 860,000 MEMBER TRANSPORT WORKERS COUNCIL (ZENKOUN) IS ORGANIZING HALVED THESE DEMANDS. ORIGINALLY ASKING "ANYTHING OVER 15" WILL BE ACCEPTABLE.

6. AS THE STRIKE SCHEDULE LOOKS NOW, MAJOR PRIVATE RR'S WILL GO OUT MAY 7 AND 9. JNR UNIONS MAY GO OUT MAY 9 BUT DEFINITELY WILL JOIN SHITETSUSOREN ON THE 9TH, AND CONTINUE ON STRIKE

THROUGH THE 10TH. BUS TRUCK AND TAKI DRIVERS, LONGSHOREMEN, EXPRESS WORKERS AS WELL AS THE POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION WORKERS ARE SCHEDULED TO STAGE SPOT STRIKES OF LESSER DURATION DURING THE DAME PERIOD.

7. COMMENT

(A) WHILE PUBLIC SECTOR UNION LEADERS CANNOT HOPE TO WIN INCREASES OUT OF LINE WITH THOSE IN PRIVATE INDSTRY, THEY ARE AWARE THAT THE GOJ IS SEEKING TO HOLD DOWN WAGE HIKES IN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES TO 8-10 PERCENT, THEY FEEL A MAJOR SHOW OF STRENGTH IS NEEDED TO AVOID BEING FORCED TO ACCEPT SETTLEMENTS IN THIS LOW RANGE.

(B) SHOULD TH STRIKES COME OFF, A CHAOTIC AND GENERALLY EKCECTIVE TRANSPORT TIE-UP CAN BE EXPECTED PEAKING MAY 9, TYING UP BOTH COMMUTER ANDLONG DISTANCE RAIL TRAVEL. BOTH PRIVATE AND JNR WAGE DISPUTES WILL BEIN MEDIATION BY THAT TIME. OBSERVERS FEEL GOJ WILL TRY TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT OF HAVING THE JNR ON STRIKE WHEN BRITAIN'S QUEEN ELIZABETH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE SHINKANSEN TO KYOTO MAY 10, AND PREDICT FRANTIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH POSSIBLY A PRIVATE RR SETTLEMENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 9TH PROVIDING THE BASIS FOR A JNR SETTLEMENT LATE THAT NIGHT.MORE STRIKES TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED MAY 13 AND 14, BUT AT PRESENT FEELING IS BOTH PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND PRIVATE RAILWAYS WILL SETTLE BEFORE THEN.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR OBJECTIVES, LABOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TOKYO05664  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750148-0415  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197504102/baaaafhr.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** ELAB, JA  
**To:** STATE INFO CANBERRA  
MANILA  
SEOUL  
EC BRUSSELS  
GENEVA  
OECD PARUS

CUSFJ

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006